



COLNE VALLEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ABBREVIATED ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1941.

R.T.E. NAISMITH, M.B., B.S.



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COLNE VALLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Health Department,
Town Hall,
Linthwaite.

Gentlemen,

The report for 1941 is again merely a short statement of vital statistics and a few notes on the principal services but as I stated in the two previous reports all the tables of statistics of every activity in the department are filed and available for reference or for any combined report which may be required.

The work of the staff who have had to deal with the reception and after care of the evacuees in the area has been arduous but it has had one advantage in that it has given an insight into human nature from a different point of view than is generally presented. For all the painstaking and thorough work done in this war-time work of the department I thank all who have so ably assisted.

To the staff I offer my appreciation of their unfailing loyalty and sincere service especially in view of all the extra duties which have devolved upon them and to the Health Committee members I again wish to say how much I value their support.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R.T.E. Naismith.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These remain as for last year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres) .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. ..	..	16,052
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1941 .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. ..	..	22,430
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books .. .. .. .. ..	.. .. ..	..	7,613
Rateable value and the sum represented by a penny rate	£116,105 - £446		

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	277	138	139
Illegitimate	13	4	9
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. ..	.. .. ..	..	12.92

STILL BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	8	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. ..	.. .. ..	..	26.84

DEATHS.

	Total	M.	F.
	370	177	193
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. ..	.. .. ..	..	16.49

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) -

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	-	-
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	-	-
Total	-	-

DEATH RATE IN INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births .. .. .. ..	..	75.85
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. ..	..	75.81
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. ..	..	76.92
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .. ..	..	45
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .. .. .. ..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .. ..	..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. ..	..	Nil

MAIN GROUPS OF DEATHS.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Last year.</u>
Diabetes	2	1	3	9
Derebral Haemorrhage	14	30	44	50
Heart Diseases	39	57	96	104
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	6	9	13
Bronchitis	16	11	27	15
Pneumonia	3	4	7	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	1	-	1	1
Influenza	1	1	2	3
Cancer	22	23	45	46
Pulmonary tuberculosis	10	3	13	7
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	2	1	3	5

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Under School</u>	<u>School Age</u>	<u>Over School</u>
Scarlet Fever	21	21	42	11	28	3
Diphtheria	6	12	18	4	7	7
Measles	16	13	29	21	6	2
Whooping Cough	76	62	138	100	37	1
Erysipelas	5	3	8			
Pneumonia	15	11	26			
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	3	5			
Para Typhoid B	-	1	1			
Tuberculosis:						
Pulmonary	11	6	17			
Non-pulmonary	4	5	9			

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Highhouse and Highhouse Green supply, South East Ward, gave trouble on two occasions but was remedied by the Council. An application by the Trustees of the Pole Moor Baptist Chapel for the Council's assistance in obtaining a supply from the Huddersfield Corporation was taken up but failed to materialise owing to the prohibitive cost of taking a service main. Much time and labour was given to the production of a scheme for an emergency supply for the district in the event of the regular supply being unavailable by reason of bomb damage. The water from 7 bore wells was tested, and 4 wells in widely separated districts were finally selected for use, the water being of first class quality and abundant in volume. Service mains and valves were fitted for easy delivery to mobile tanks, and a reserve of materials for chlorination if necessary. The scheme was ultimately taken over by the Huddersfield Corporation by agreement for incorporation in their scheme with administration in Colne Valley still remaining with the Colne Valley Council. The Stockerhead and Commercial Street, Lintwhaite, private supply which had been unsatisfactory for some time was condemned and the 20 houses served were connected up to the Huddersfield Corporation's supply. The percentages of supply are as follows:- Huddersfield Corporation 56.51, Earl Dartmouth 11.84, Private supplies 15.60 giving a total of 83.95 of houses with a laid on supply. The balance representing 16.05 of the houses have to carry in water from nearby wells and springs.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extension was carried out during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Nothing to report.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Tables showing the Ward position are again omitted, but, as previously, have been prepared and filed. Thirteen privies have been replaced by waterclosets, and 5 additional waterclosets have been provided for existing properties. Eleven waterclosets have been added in respect of new houses built during the year thus giving a total increase of 29 waterclosets. The situation regarding materials and labour is acutely affecting conversions and this is likely to continue until after the war. Fourteen subsidies of £3 each were paid. The numbers of the various types of conveniences serving the district at the end of the year are as follows:- Privies 1067, Tub closets 497, Water-closets 4778, and Waste-waterclosets 71.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The depletion of staffs has increased during the year and the difficulties of carrying out the work of public cleansing have increased correspondingly. In spite of this there has been no complaints of great consequence regarding this service. The claims on staff and transport for salvage work have also made a big demand, but by improved organisation this call has been met without a serious inroad on to public cleansing.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

NUISANCES.

The number of nuisances in hand at the end of 1940 was 23 and these with 62 new nuisances reported gave a total of 85 for abatement. Fifty nine were abated leaving 26 to carry forward unabated. It may be stated that the majority of the latter are nuisances which on account of the situation in regard to materials and labour can be left for remedy until after the war. Of the nuisances dealt with, 35 were from defective drainage, 4 defective sewers, 16 defective sanitary conveniences, 3 water supply, 2 premises in such a state as to be a nuisance, 2 nuisances from animals, and 1 pollution of a stream.

Two statutory notices were issued, one complied with, and the other in hand at the end of the year. Twenty three informal notices were issued and all complied with. The smaller number of nuisances dealt with is the result of being off duty for six months through an accident.

FACTORIES.

The number of factories on the register is the same as at the close of last year, namely 155 "power factories" and 38 "non power factories". Each factory has been visited and found to be in a satisfactory condition, and the regulations as to limewashing are well observed.

BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakehouses in the district remains unchanged at 21, of which 14 are "power factories" and 7 "non power factories". The premises have all been inspected and are uniformly found to be well conducted and kept in a cleanly and satisfactory condition. There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Measures of home security still preclude any activity under this heading. The Council are members of the West Riding Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The two businesses under this heading have been conducted in a satisfactory manner throughout the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 86 registered cowkeepers, and 128 cowsheds in the district. The average number of cows kept is 850. No new licences have been granted for the production of Accredited Milk so the number remains at 10. Owing to the war and the difficulty in obtaining materials and labour, only minor alterations have been carried out to defective sheds, but on the whole the structural conditions are good.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT SUPPLY.

The position here is similar to last year. There is one public abattoir and 11 private slaughterhouses, 10 of which are registered and 1 licensed. Under the Government Control the slaughtering of animals for this area is still being carried out at Huddersfield. Only occasional slaughtering of pigs under licence from the Food Officer is allowed in this district.

HOUSING.

During the year 120 inspections were made under the Housing Act, 1936. Of this number 96 were remedied by the owners, the remaining 24 houses are under notice to repair. Sixteen houses requiring repairs during 1940 were also remedied.

Nine houses were re-conditioned by the owners who provided new floors, windows etc. Certificates were granted under Section 51, Housing Act 1936 with respect to 7 houses.

No houses were closed or representations made to the Council regarding the closing of houses.

During the year the Council completed the erection of 26 houses, which were in hand at the outbreak of the war. These houses are now occupied by tenants from overcrowded houses or houses which had been dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936.



